

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

IN RE : SPEEDY TRIAL ACT

SPEEDY TRIAL ACT STANDING ORDER

The undersigned District Judge notes the following:

(1) This District has one of the Nation's most congested heavily congested criminal dockets. Most of our cases also involve multiple defendants.

(2) U.S. Sentencing Commission statistics reveal that a considerable bulk of the crimes charged in this District involve drugs, firearms, immigration, as well as child pornography. This requires a 3 or 5 day continuance of the holding of a detention hearing, as allowed by the Bail Reform Act.

On many occasions this period will extend to 10 days, because the offender has a prior criminal record and/or is not a US Citizen nor permanent US Resident.

(3) Because of the preceding, in this District, prosecutors and defense counsel engage in significant time and effort from the moment a defendant is initially brought to court. Following this event, counsel generally focus on the issue of detention/release. Once said matter concludes then the defendant is arraigned, and subsequently the parties engage in the discovery and case investigation/evaluation process.

(4) The undersigned has a practice of setting an Initial Status Conference early on, very shortly after the arraignment(s) in each case.

Wherefore, in all criminal cases before the undersigned, the period from arraignment to the Initial Status Conference is automatically excluded under 18 USC Secs. 3161(h)(1)(D) & (H) and (h)(7)(A) in order to serve the ends of justice. This will avoid the need in every case to specifically toll the Speedy Trial Act for the period of time following arraignment and up to the Initial Status Conference.

This standing order does not preclude any defendant from requesting the undersigned that such period not be excluded from Speedy Trial Act considerations. Any such request, however shall be made at the Initial Status Conference, or will be deemed waived.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 06th day of August, 2013.

s/Gustavo A. Gelpí
U.S. District Judge